

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-22 are pending in the application. Claims 4 and 10 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species (Species B). Claims 16-22 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention (Group III). In the Office Action mailed July 21, 2009, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0017424 (Park et al.; hereinafter "Park") in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0213382 (Kendale et al.; hereinafter "Kendale"). Claims 5-7 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Kendale and further in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2003/0095170 (Johnson). Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Kendale and Johnson and further in view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 6,517,995 (Jacobson et al.; hereinafter "Jacobson").

I. Response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Kendale. Claims 5-7 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Kendale and further in view of Johnson. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Kendale and Johnson and further in view of Jacobson. Claims 1, 2, 4, 14, and 15 have now been cancelled. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 5-7 and 11-13. The claimed invention is not unpatentable, because the art of record fails to teach modification of the patterned film according to the methodology of the Applicants.

In order to more particularly point out and claim this aspect of the Applicants' invention, the Applicants have herein amended independent claim 5 to recite the step of modifying the patterned film by one or more of the steps of removing material from the patterned film using a sharp tip, adding material to the patterned film using a sharp tip, removing material from the patterned film by addition of a solvent, removing material from the patterned film using electromagnetic radiation, and curing material in the patterned film to prevent its transfer.

Withdrawn dependent claim 10 has been amended to correct the terminology to be consistent with that used in amended claim 5. New dependent claims 23-26 have been added in order to recite specific features of preferred embodiments of the invention. Support for these amendments and new claims is found in the Specification (as published) at least at paragraphs

[0035], [0009], [0022], and [0024], in the Abstract, in Fig. 1, and in original claims 3, 18, and 19. No new matter has been added by these amendments and new claims, entry of which is respectfully requested.

The art of record fails to teach modification of the patterned film according to the specific methodologies of the Applicants. In particular, Jacobson is cited as teaching “further modifying the patterned film in order to create a desired three-dimensional configuration (column 6, lines 43-47)”. However, the only means of doing so disclosed by Jacobson is by adding a thin film of liquid over the patterned film in a manner that is “generally conformal” to the patterned material [Jacobson at column 6, lines 47-51]. Thus, Jacobson teaches only one method of adding material to the patterned film, which method adds material over the entire surface of the patterned film rather than at specifically desired locations, and Jacobson does not teach any method of removing material from the patterned film, particularly not doing so at specifically desired locations. In contrast, in the Applicants’ claimed invention, the patterned film may be mechanically changed by using a sharp tip to either remove or add material, material may be removed by addition of a solvent, and/or electromagnetic radiation may be used to cure or ablate material from the patterned film when it is on the offset plate [Specification (as published) at paragraph [0035]]. A particular advantage of the methodology of the Applicants is that it permits specific additions to, or subtractions from, the patterned film, and thus in particular facilitates the correction of errors in the patterned film. Jacobson fails to teach any of these methodologies for modifying the patterned film.

Because Jacobson fails to teach modifying the patterned film by one or more of the steps of removing material from the patterned film using a sharp tip, adding material to the patterned film using a sharp tip, removing material from the patterned film by addition of a solvent, removing material from the patterned film using electromagnetic radiation, and curing material in the patterned film to prevent its transfer, as claimed by the Applicants in currently amended claim 5, Jacobson fails to anticipate or make obvious the Applicants’ claimed invention, whether taken alone or in combination with any other art of record, as does all other art of record. The deficiencies of Jacobson are not cured by any other art of record none of which teach the Applicants’ claimed step of modifying the patterned film by one or more of the steps of removing material from the patterned film using a sharp tip, adding material to the patterned film using a sharp tip, removing material from the patterned film by addition of a solvent, removing material from the patterned film using electromagnetic radiation, and curing material in the

patterned film to prevent its transfer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claim 5, as amended, is therefore respectfully requested.

Because claims 6, 7, 11-13, and new claims 23-26 depend from currently amended independent claim 5, which is in condition for allowance, claims 6, 7, 11-13, and new claims 23-26 are also in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 7, and 11-13, and allowance of claims 6, 7, 11-13, and new claims 23-26 is therefore respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10-22 are pending in the application. Claims 4, 10, and 16-22 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4, 14, and 15 have now been cancelled. Claims 5 and 10 have been amended. New claims 23-26 have been added. The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-7, 11-13, and 23-26 are now in condition for allowance, which action is therefore requested. The Applicants further believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is now earnestly and respectfully solicited. Should there remain any unresolved issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Norma E. Henderson, Applicant's Attorney, at 603-437-4400, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



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January 21, 2010

Date

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